

# **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

## **Application Ranking Summary EQIP - Grafton General Cropland**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> EQIP - Grafton General Cropland		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

### **National Priorities Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)

Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)

6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

#### State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will the application enhance an existing riparian buffer with tree and shrub planting (willow live stakes), create a buffer with practice (391), or install a filter strip within 35 feet of the water's edge?	50 Point(s)
2. Does the application include vegetative and/or management practices that will control erosion or reduce sediment/nutrients on a field adjacent to surface waters or wetlands?	50 Point(s)

3. Does the application include cover crops on all owned and rented cropland, or at least 100 acres? Do NOT answer YES to both State 3 and State 4.	50 Point(s)
4. Does the application include cover crops on at least 50% of all owned and rented cropland, or at least 50 acres? Do NOT answer YES to both State 3 and State 4.	25 Point(s)
5. Does the application include a legume or multi-species (at least 3 species) cover crop on at least 25% of all owned and rented cropland, or at least 25 acres?	25 Point(s)
6. Does the application include forage and biomass planting (on hayland) to address resource concerns (overall rating of <25 - poor or very poor) identified on the NH Pasture & Hayland Condition Score Sheet?	25 Point(s)
7. Does the application include practices that convert corn to hay on floodplains for the 5 year lifespan? Do NOT answer YES to both State 7 and 8.	50 Point(s)
8. Does the application include practices that convert corn to hay? Do NOT answer YES to both State 7 and 8.	25 Point(s)
9. Does the application include conservation crop rotation?	25 Point(s)
10. Does the application include an Adaptive Management scenario for either Cover Crop, Reduced Till, or Nutrient Management?	25 Point(s)
11. Does the application include practices to address surface or subsurface soil compaction?	25 Point(s)
12. Does the application include Nutrient Management implementation as prescribed in an existing CNMP/NMP.	25 Point(s)
13. Does the application improve native pollinator habitat using conservation cover or by developing feathered edges?	25 Point(s)
14. Does the application include a Seasonal High Tunnel to be installed on a site that does not require leveling, grading or drainage/water management for installation and operation?	25 Point(s)

#### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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1. Does the application include practices to limit sediment/nutrients from entering surface water, or control of direct discharge?	325 Point(s)
2. Will practices in this application control non-native invasive species and noxious weeds, or decrease pest pressures affecting agricultural or forestry operations?	200 Point(s)
3. Does the application include conservation buffers that are at least 15 feet in width?	200 Point(s)
4. Does the application include practices to benefit Eastern Brook Trout, Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse or other Species of Concern identified in the NH Wildlife Action Plan or does the application include at least one practice to benefit wildlife on the treatment area?	200 Point(s)
5. Practices in the application will positively impact locally grown food products you sell in New England?	325 Point(s)
6. Will the practices in the application be implemented on land protected by a permanent conservation easement?	200 Point(s)
7. Practices in the application are consistent with recommendations in your farm, business, wildlife, energy or forestry management plan.	200 Point(s)
8. Is this your first EQIP contract, or has applicant completed all previous contracts?	325 Point(s)
9. Will practices in the application positively impact the soil health of cropland and/or grassland?	325 Point(s)
10. Does this application address resource concerns with three or more different practices planned?	200 Point(s)















































